Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office Of The Governor

WHEREAS, In 1988, an estimated two million elders were the victims of physical and emotional abuse, neglect, and denial of fundamental civil rights; and,

WHEREAS, The South Dakota Department of Social Services investigated 279 reports of abuse, neglect and exploitation of the disabled and elderly in 1988; and,

WHEREAS, These elders represent every racial, religious and socio-economic class; and,

WHEREAS, The suffering of these elders poses a threat to our families and to our society as a whole; and,

WHEREAS, In most instances, this neglect and abuse stems from the lack of information on intervention and prevention; and,

WHEREAS, The health and well-being of our elders is, and must be, one of our nation's highest priorities; and,

WHEREAS, May 1989 has been designated as "Older Americans Month," and provides the ideal opportunity for the people of the United States to become educated and aware of the welfare of the elderly; and,

WHEREAS, A congressional resolution calls for the designation of May 1-7 as "National Older Americans Abuse Prevention Week;" and,

WHEREAS, It is appropriate to focus the attention of South Dakotans upon the problems of elderly abuse:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE S. MICKELSON, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim May 1 through 7, 1989, as

OLDER AMERICANS ABUSE PREVENTION WEEK

in South Dakota.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twelfth Day of April, in the Year of Our Lord, Nineteen Hundred and Eighty-Nine

GEORGE S. MICKELSON, GOVERNOR

ATTEST: